

FINAL APPROVED

MINUTES VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK September 20, 2002

The Virginia Board of Social Work meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 20, 2002 at the Department of Health Professions, 6606 West Broad Street, 5th Floor, Board Room 1, Richmond, Virginia. Fredrick Weston, Chair, called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Fredrick D. Weston
Sharon Ekleberry
Valerie Carter-Williams
Anne R. Keast
George Offerman
William Russell

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Sue Howington

STAFF PRESENT: Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Benjamin Foster, Deputy Executive Director
Rai K. Minor, Administrative Assistant
Robert Nebiker, Director
Mark Munson, Deputy Director for Administration

GUEST PRESENT: Debra Riggs, Executive Director for NASW
Joseph Lynch, LCSW, Representative for NASW

Mr. Weston welcomed new board member, Valerie Carter-Williams to the Board of Social Work. Ms. Carter-Williams stated she is very pleased and honored to be appointed to the Board of Social Work and looks forward to serving on the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

The February 22, 2002 minutes of the Board were approved as written.

AGENCY REPORT – Robert Nebiker, Director

Mr. Nebiker discussed the Agency's budget, reduction plans, travel restrictions and the agency re-locating to 6603 West Broad Street.

Mr. Nebiker reported that former board member Joseph Lynch, LCSW was appointed to the Health Practitioner's Intervention Program (HPIP). Mr. Nebiker also stated new board member training would be held on October 30th here at the agency.

Mr. Nebiker announced that Gail Jaspen had been appointed as the new Chief Deputy Director and introduced Mark Munson, Deputy Director for Administration.

Mr. Munson stated to the Board the agency is upgrading its current licensing computer system and that the agency is currently in the processing of making notices and orders available on the Internet. Notices and orders will be made available to the public on a rolling 90 day schedule. Mr. Munson stated that the agency is also in the process of implementing online renewal for its licensees.

REPORTS

NASW Long-Term/Short-Term Goals – Joseph Lynch, LCSW

Mr. Lynch stated that he is working with NASW on a long-term goal of removing the exemptions for licensure. As a short-term goal Mr. Lynch asked the Board to allow BSW students who are going to graduate to be allowed to sit for the basic LSW exam prior to graduation. Mr. Lynch stated it appears there is a support from BSW Schools of Social Work to encourage students to take the test prior to graduating.

Ms. Minor stated she receives many calls regarding the Licensed Social Worker (LSW) license and advises BSW students, in order to have reciprocity of the exam within the three jurisdictions of Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland, to take the exam in the District of Columbia. In the District you may sit for the exam before graduating. Ms. Minor stated that D.C. and Maryland require the Intermediate level of the national exam for the LGSW, which is comparable to the LSW in Virginia; however, Virginia requires the Basic level exam for the LSW. Ms. Minor stated Virginia would accept the Intermediate exam, however, if the student took the exam in Virginia the exam would not transfer to the District of Columbia or Maryland and the student would have to re-sit for the exam.

The Board advised it would take Mr. Lynch's suggestions under consideration and would evaluate cost and feasibility.

Executive Director Report – Evelyn B. Brown

Ms. Brown welcomed new board member, Ms. Carter-Williams to the Board and reiterated that the Agency is relocating to 6603 West Broad Street. Ms. Brown advised

the Board of the Agency's budget restrictions and how it affects the Board regarding travel, meetings and other board business.

Ms. Brown reported on the new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements affecting publication of meetings on the Internet.

Regulatory Review – Benjamin Foster

Mr. Foster advised that the Board needed to vote whether to go forward with the proposed regulations. A motion was made and properly seconded to go forward with the proposed regulations to amend the standards of practice.

Discipline Committee – Fredrick Weston

Mr. Weston reported that the Board currently has sixteen (16) complaints in investigations, three (3) cases at board level, and three (3) informal conferences have been held since their last meeting. No cases were returned to Enforcement for additional information.

Mr. Weston advised that since the last meeting the Board has four (4) licenses on probation and the Discipline Committee has one (1) Consent Order to present to the Board. **Barbara Reuter, L.C.S.W.** accepted the Committee's Consent Order entered June 28, 2002 to surrender her license.

Board of Health Professions – William Russell

Mr. Russell had no report.

Newsletter Committee – Anne Keast

Ms. Keast stated she was pleased with the newsletter and thanked all board members who contributed.

Ms. Keast stated she would like to publish the 2003 newsletter in the Spring and possibly have two newsletters a year. Ms. Keast requested board members to have their articles ready at the next scheduled board meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

New Business

Mr. Weston made new Committee assignments to the Regulatory Committee, Credentials Committee, and Discipline Committee. There were no changes to the Continuing Competency Committee and the Newsletter Committee.

Regulatory Committee
George Offerman, Chair
Anne Keast

Discipline Committee
Sharon Ekleberry, Chair
Valerie Carter-Williams
Fredrick Weston

Credentials Committee
William Russell, Chair
George Offerman

The Board elected to send representative to the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Annual Meeting November 8-10, 2002 in Savannah, Georgia and Ms. Ekleberry was asked to represent the Board at the ASWB meeting as the Delegate and Ms. Carter-Williams will attend as the Alternate.

The meeting was adjourned.

Fredrick D. Weston, Chair

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director

Rai Minor, Recording Secretary